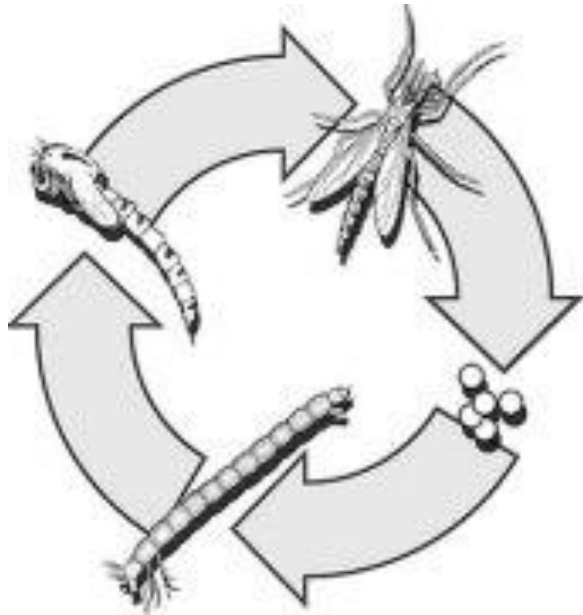


CHIRONOMIDS

LIFE CYCLE
HATCH CALENDAR
STAGE CHARACTERISTICS
METHODS/TECHNIQUES
METHODS/ EQUIPMENT
FINDING FISH
FLY PATTERNS

LIFE CYCLE



The chironomid has three (3) distinctly different, and all fishable , stages of life; (1) the larva (aka ... the bloodworm), (2) the pupa (which in our opinion is the most important as far as fly fishing is concerned), and (3) probably the least concerning to fly fishers yet important enough to understand, the mosquito like mature adult (winged terrestrial).

LIFE CYCLE

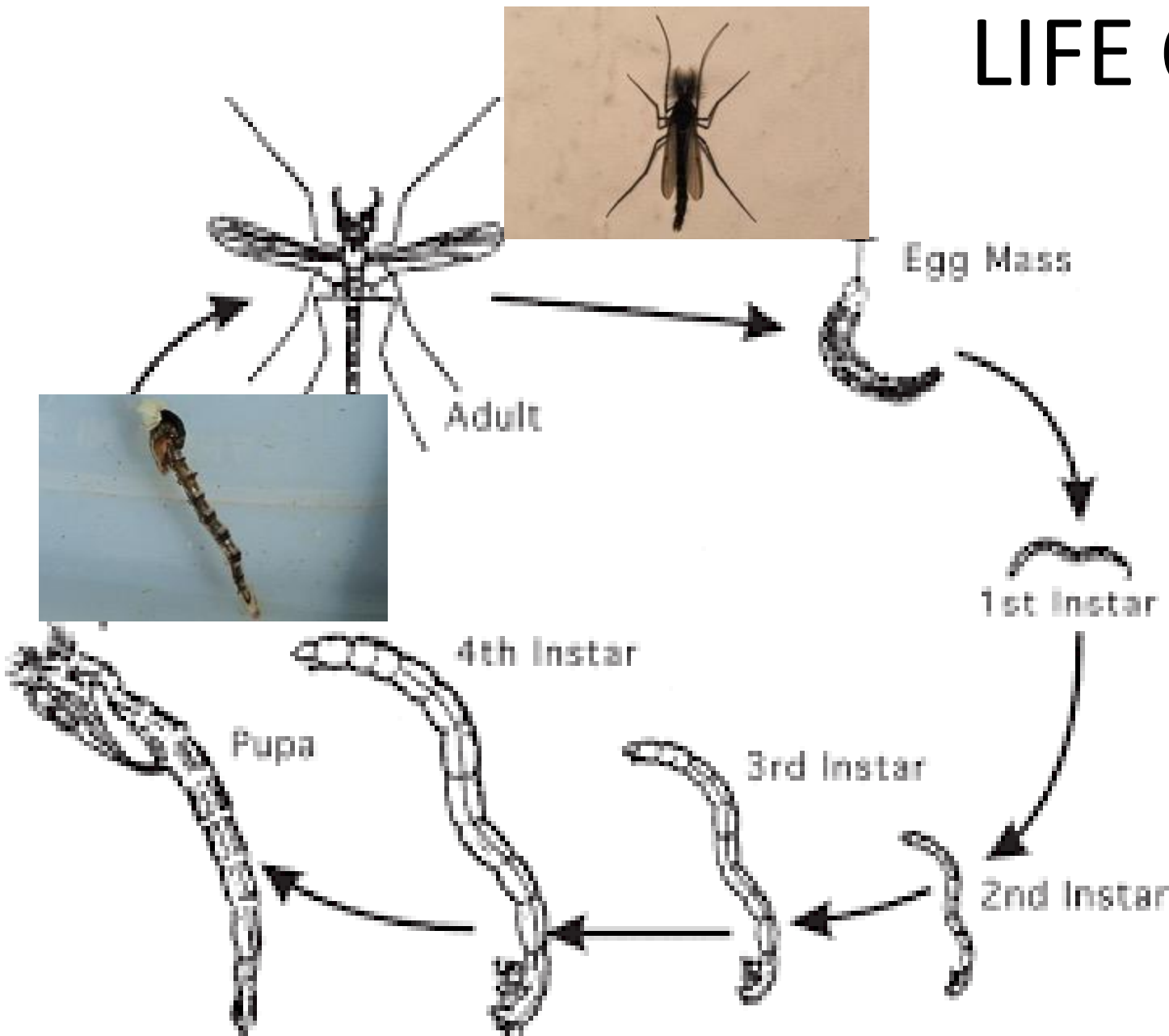
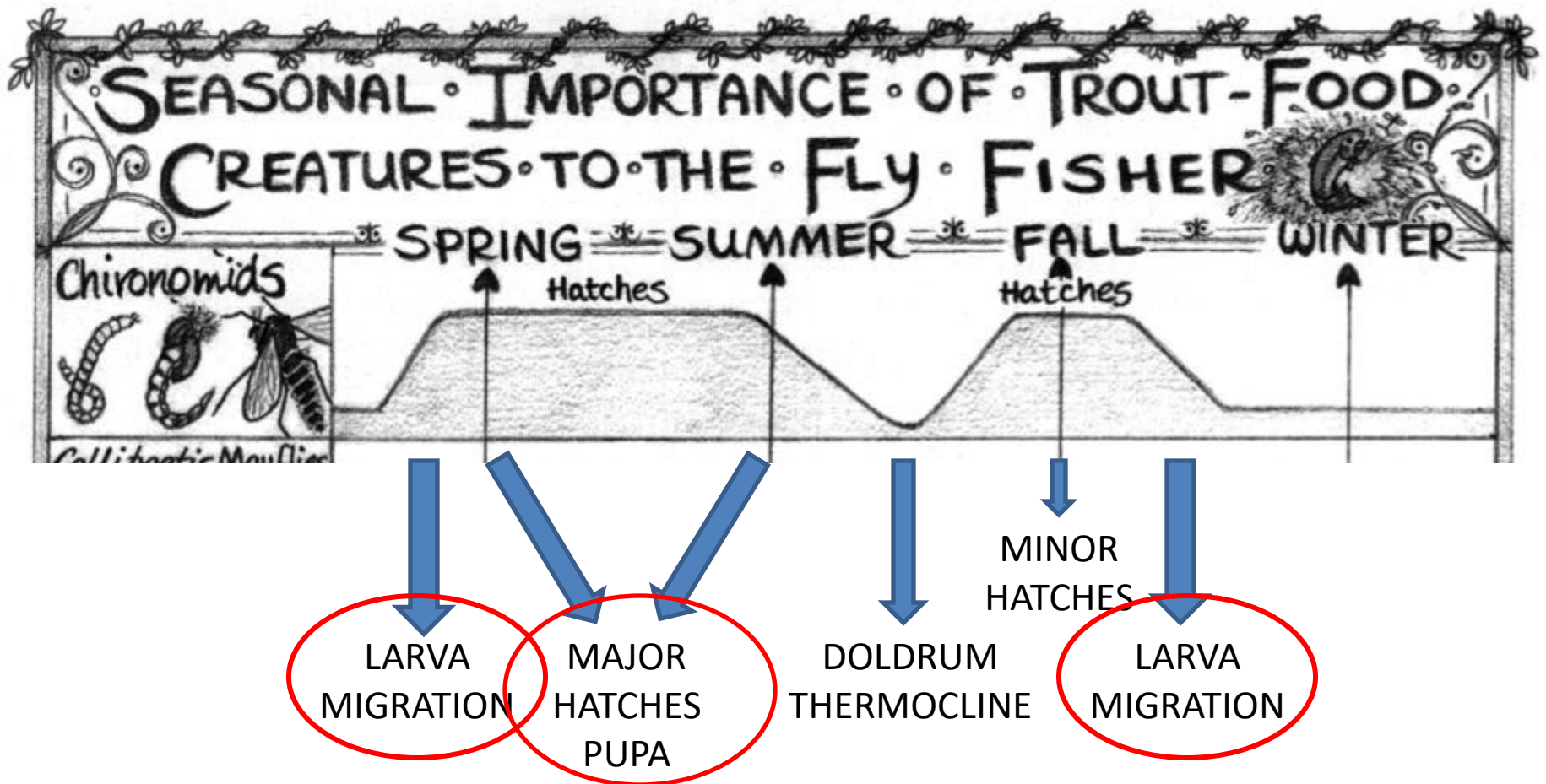
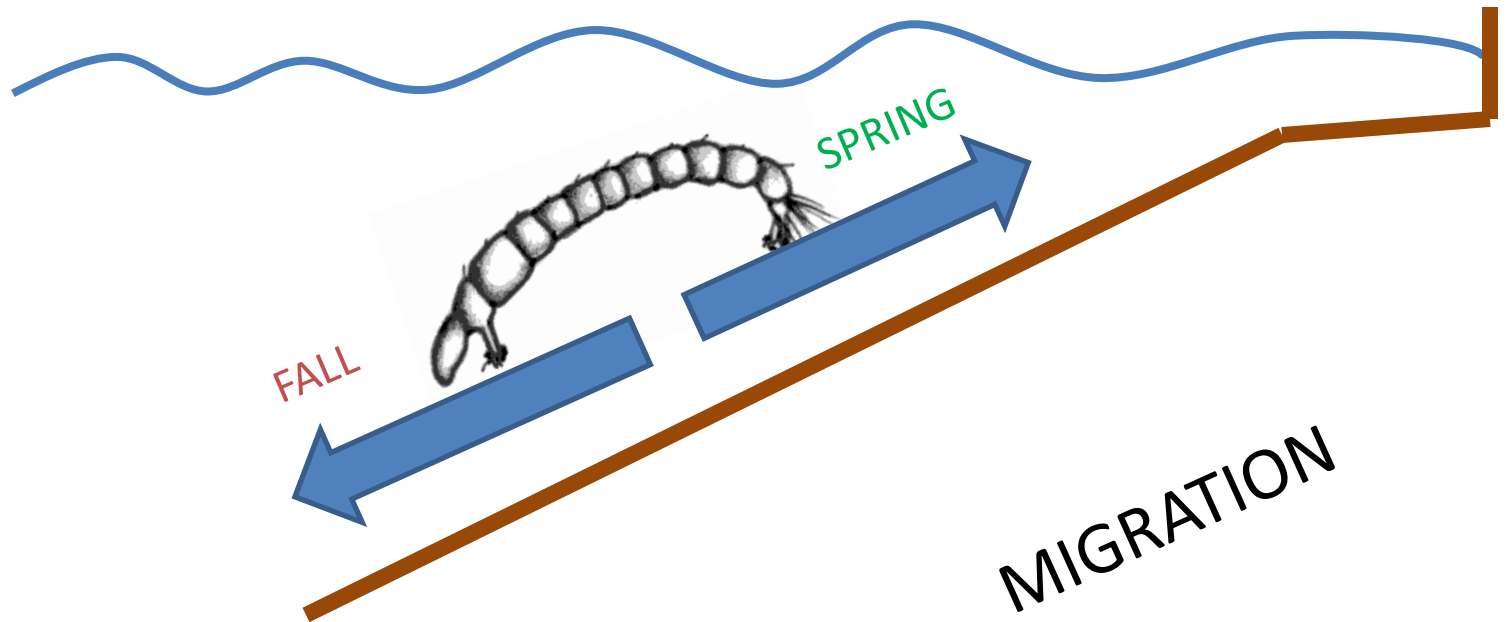


Figure 1. Chironomid life cycle (adapted from Walker 1987).

HATCH CALENDAR



LARVA STAGE



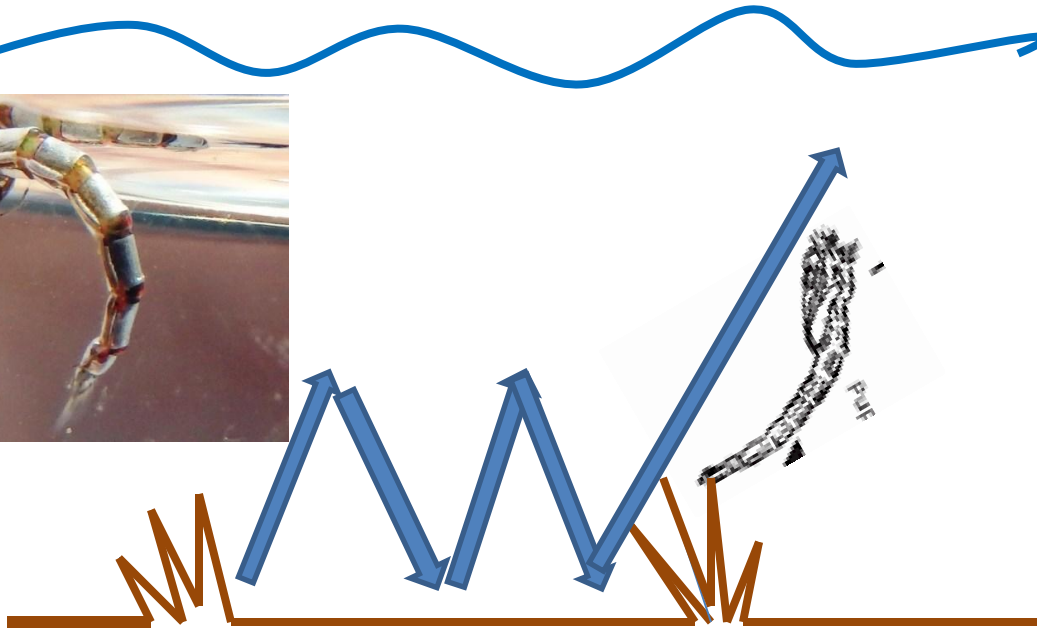
PUPA STAGE

It is often thought by anglers that Chironomid pupae migrate directly from their mud tubes to the surface to hatch. However, **Brian Chan** (a well-known fisheries biologist from British Columbia and Chironomid fishing expert) has documented another aspect of this insect's life style that explains why fishing these imitations deep works so well.

He took a team and an underwater camera to one of his area lakes to videotape migrating pupae.

What he found is that after leaving their mud tube, *the pupae swirl around in the water one to two feet off the bottom of the lake bed*. During this process, *they mature (stage) for three to five days* before they make their journey to the surface to hatch as adults.

This explains why *the first one to two feet off the lake bottom* is often so productive, and also why trout often take Chironomid pupa imitations deep in the lake *when there is no evidence of a hatch on the surface*.

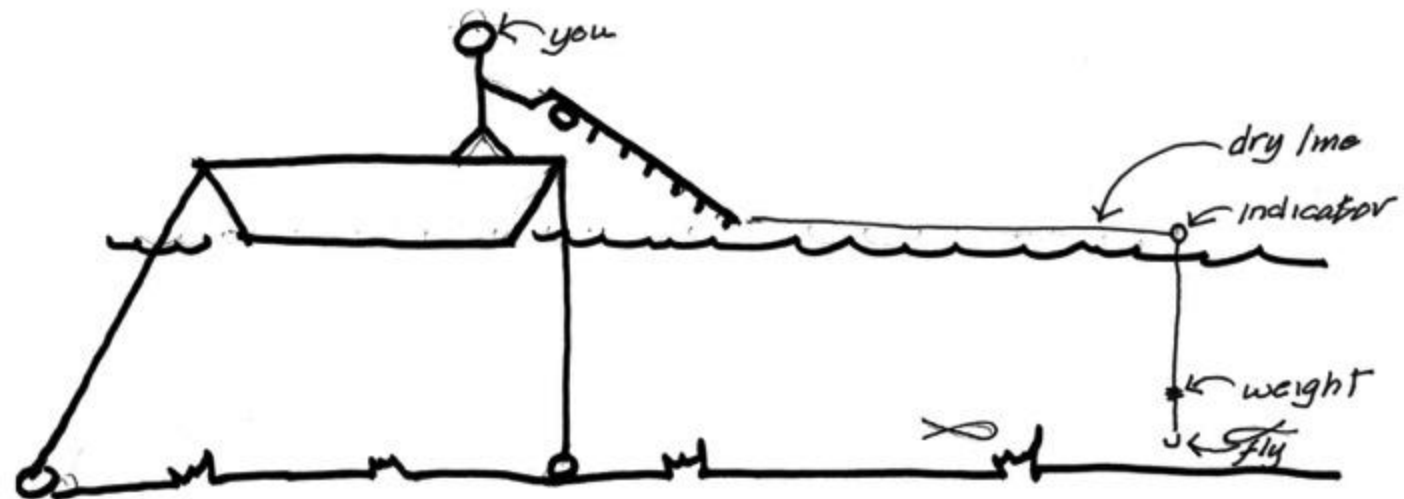


Chironomid Methods

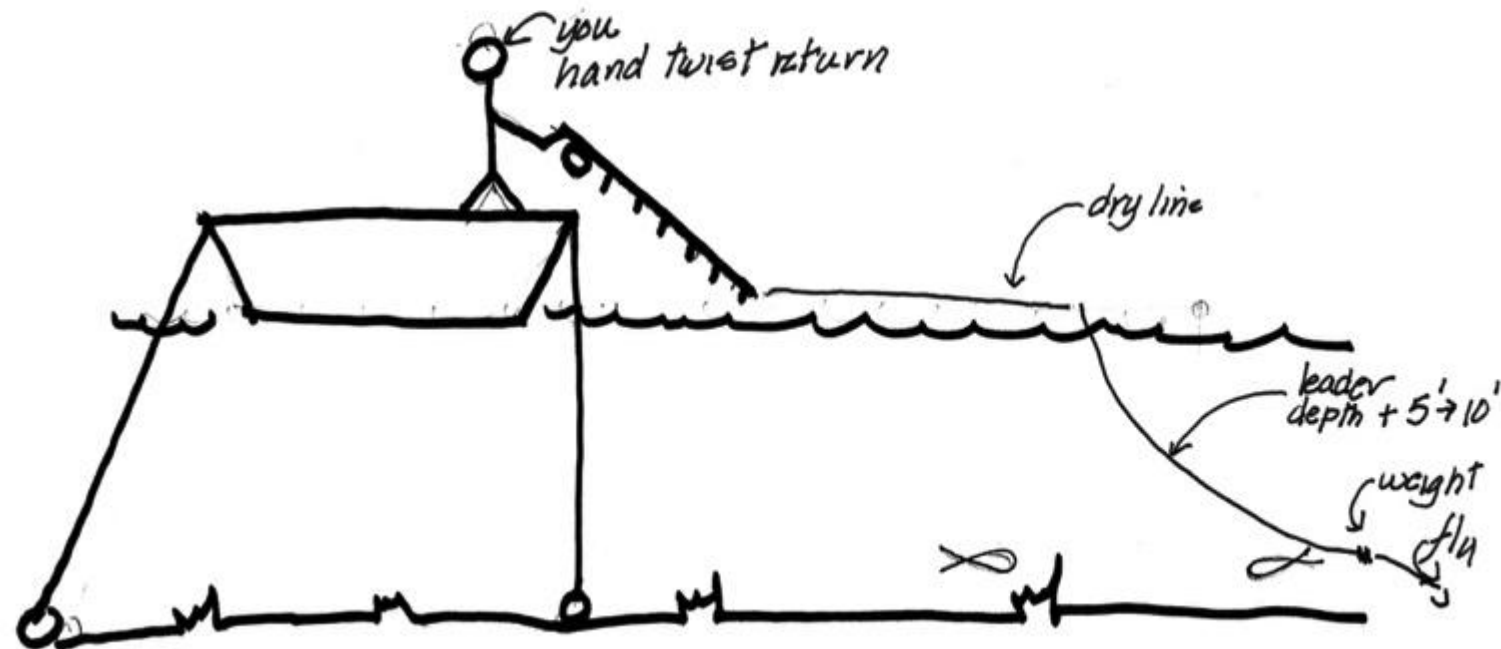
1. Indicator
2. Long line or Naked
3. Wind drifting
4. Dangling
5. Slow sink or Hover
6. Dry/Emerger

Double Anchor



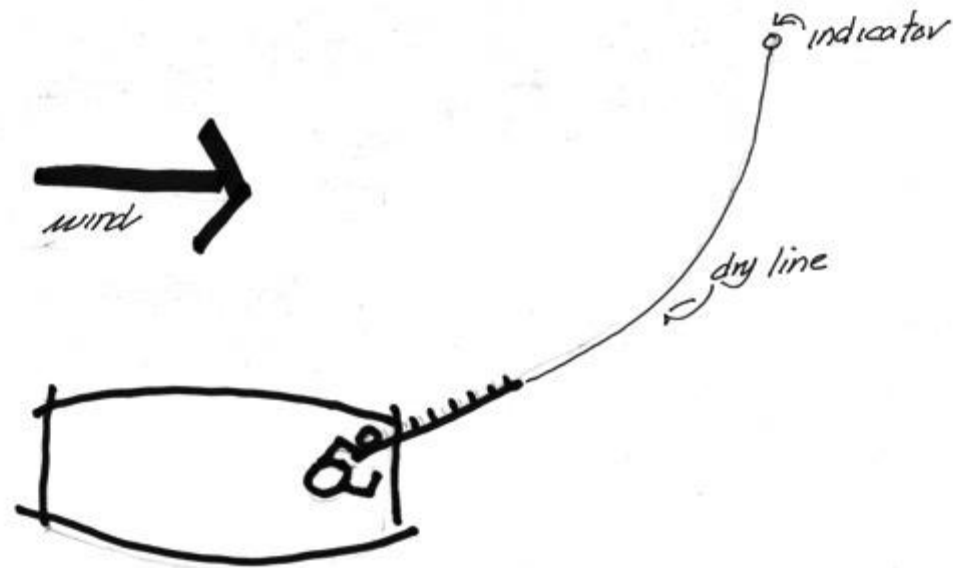


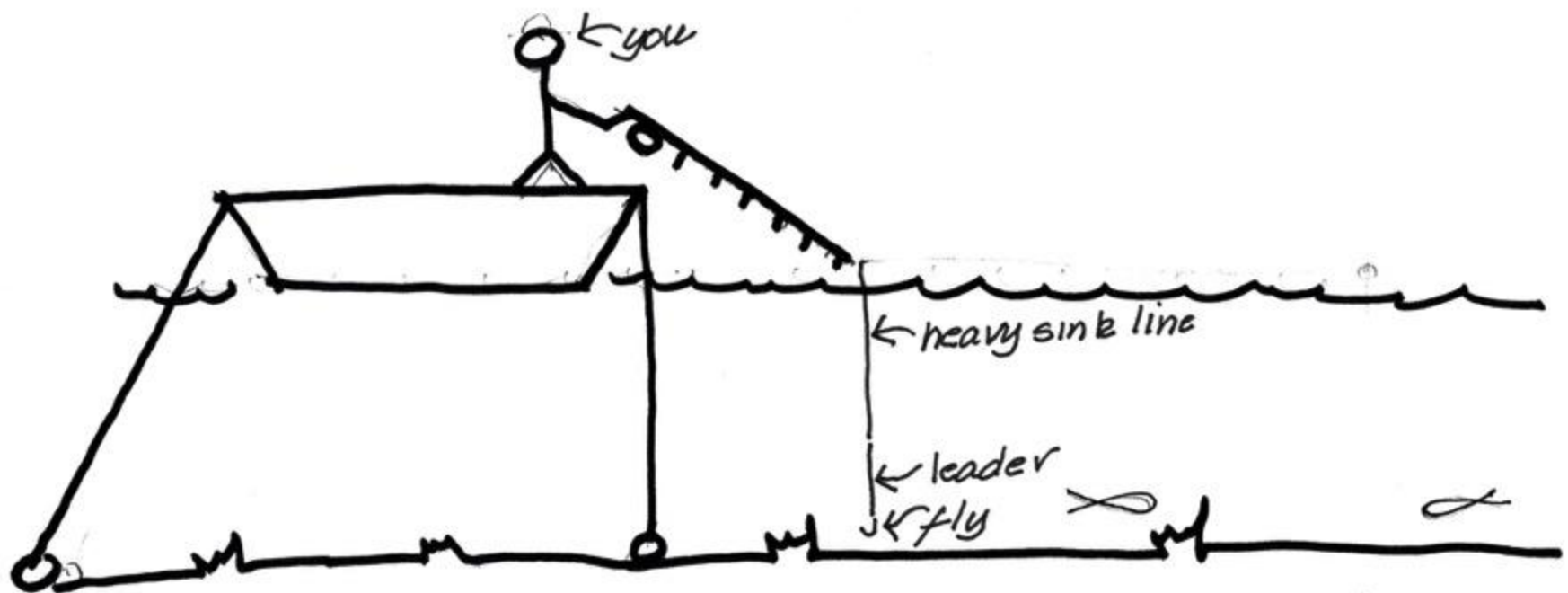
INDICATOR



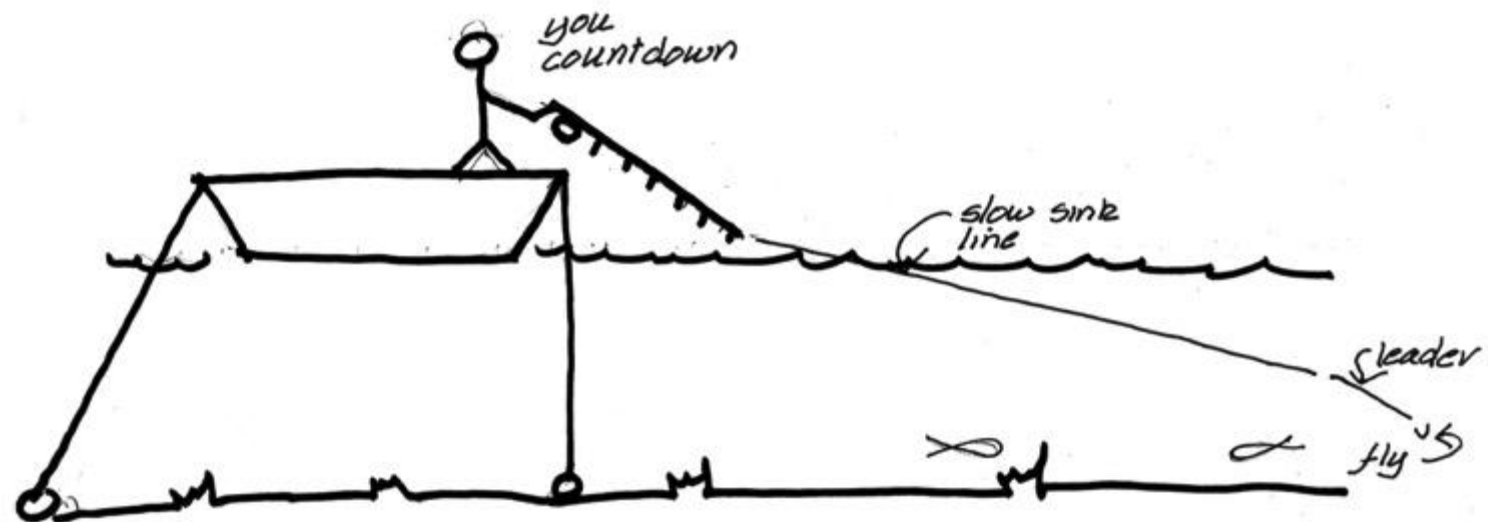
**LONG LINE OR
NAKED**

Wind Drifting



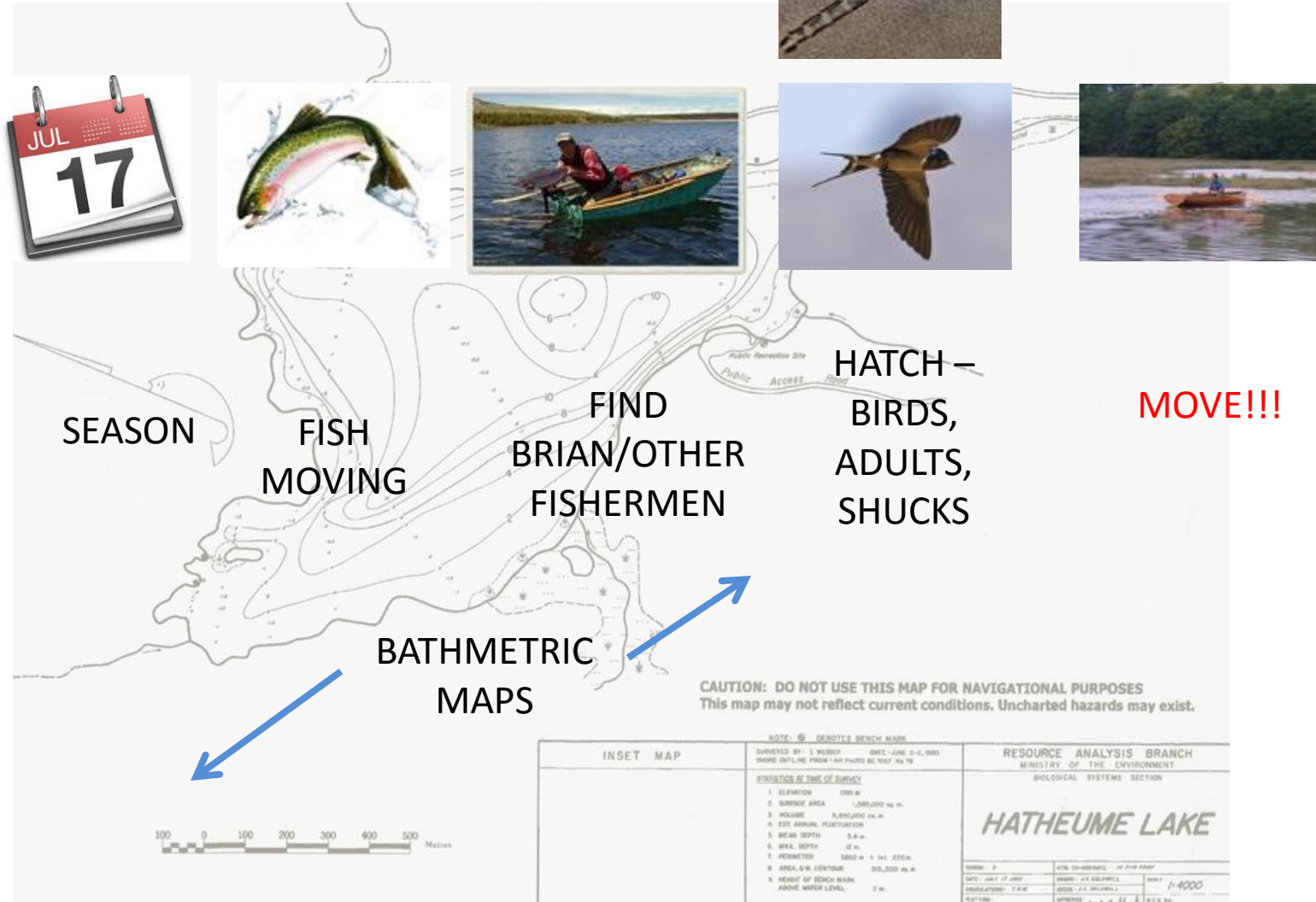


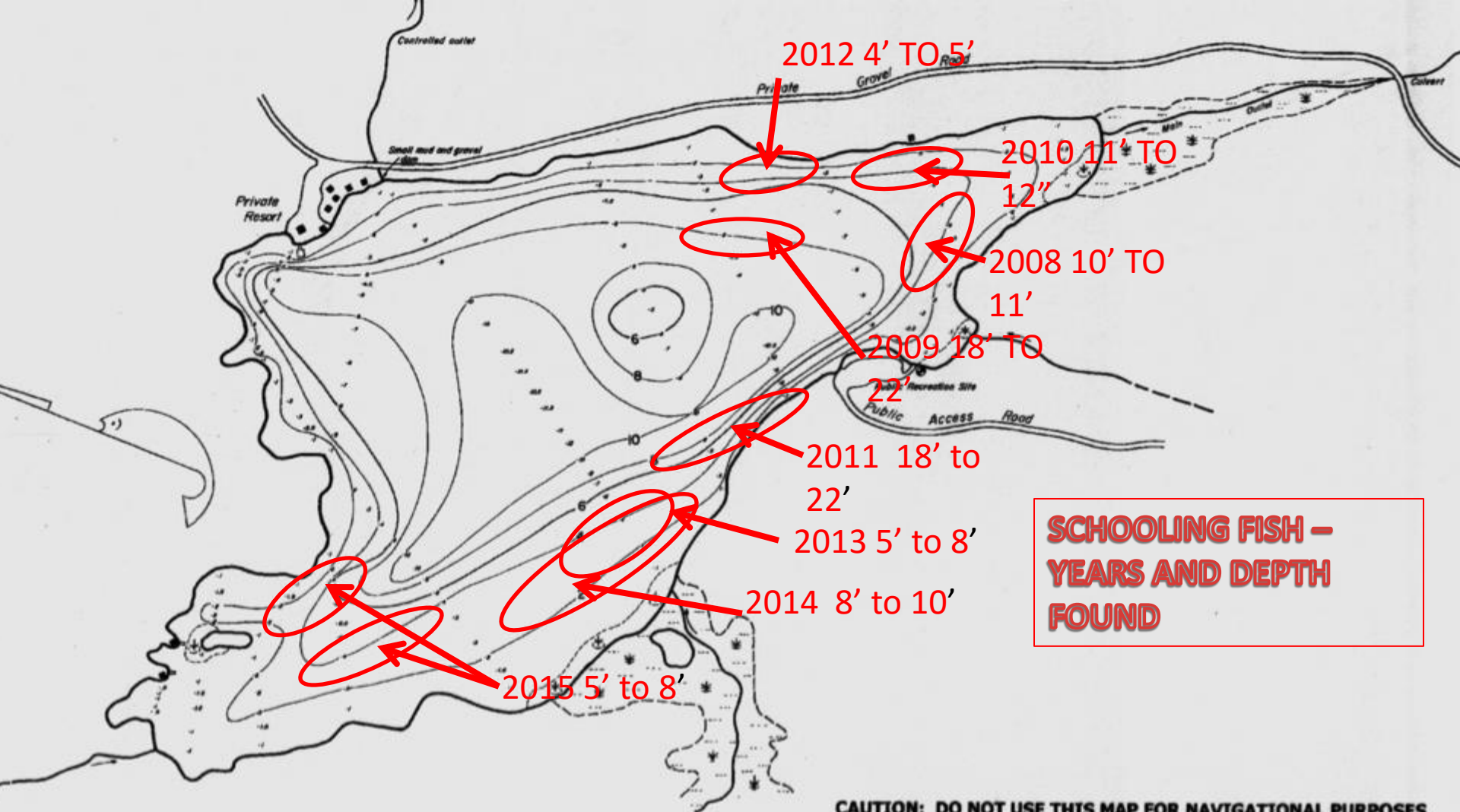
DANGLING



**SLOW SINK OR
HOVER**

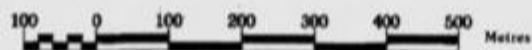
FINDING FISH





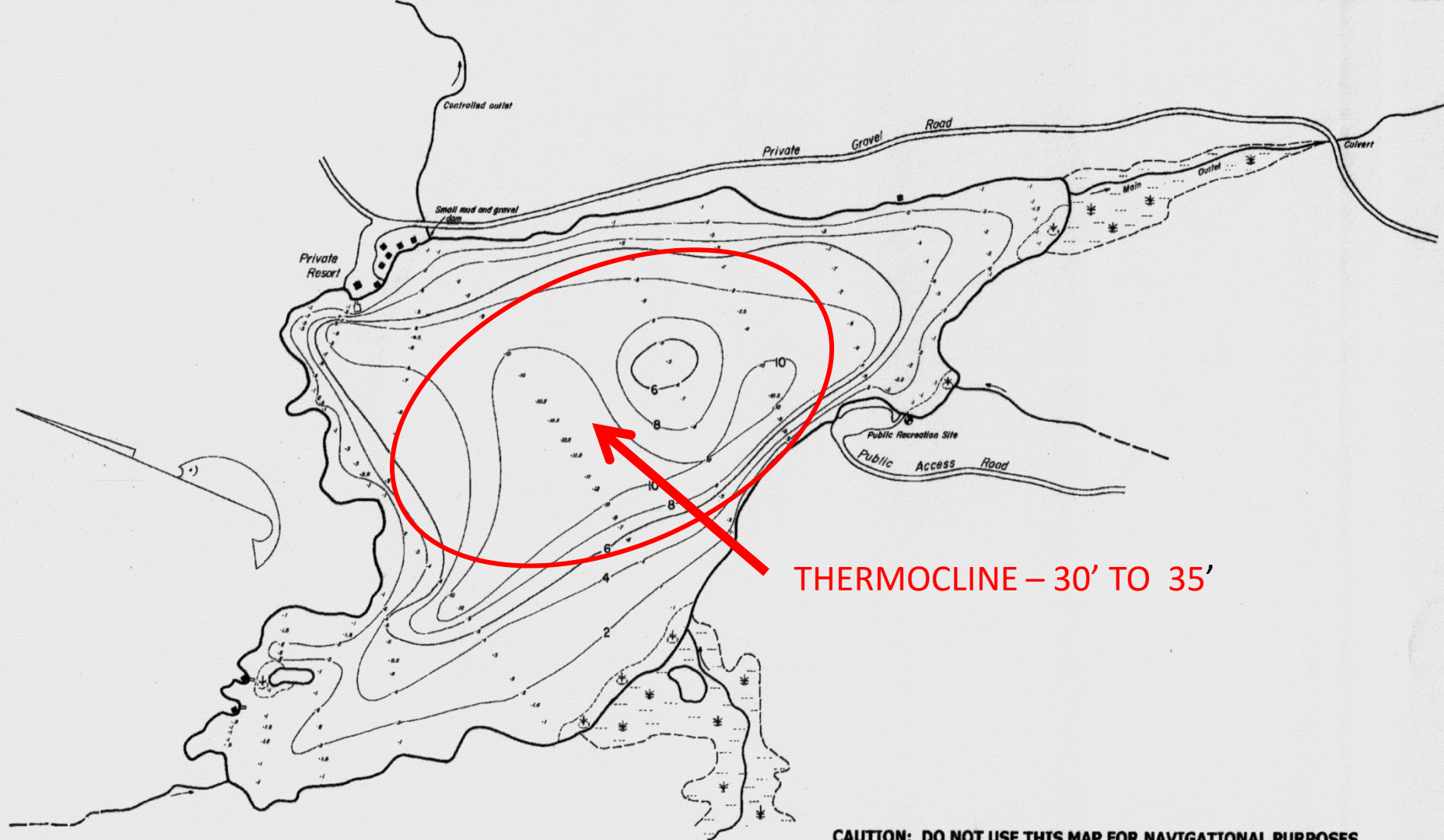
**SCHOOLING FISH –
YEARS AND DEPTH
FOUND**

**FINDING FISH – SPRING
PUPA STAGE**



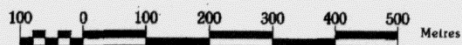
CAUTION: DO NOT USE THIS MAP FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES
This map may not reflect current conditions. Uncharted hazards may exist.

INSET MAP		RESOURCE ANALYSIS BRANCH MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS SECTION	
<p>NOTE: ② DENOTES BENCH MARK</p> <p>SURVEYED BY: L. WOODS DATE: JUNE 2-8, 1980 SHORE OUTLINE FROM: AIR PHOTO BC 7007 No. 78</p> <p><u>STATISTICS AT TIME OF SURVEY</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ELEVATION 1380 m SURFACE AREA 1,089,000 sq. m. VOLUME 8,850,000 cu. m. EST. ANNUAL PLANTATION MEAN DEPTH 8.6 m. MAX. DEPTH 12 m. PERIMETER 5860 m ± 1st 220 m. AREA, 8 M. CIRCUM 565,200 sq. m. HEIGHT OF BENCH MARK ABOVE WATER LEVEL 2 m. 		<p>HATHEUME LAKE</p> <p>SECTION: 2</p> <p>DATE: JULY 17, 1980</p> <p>DRAWN: J.A. BALFORTH</p> <p>CHECKED: J.A. BALFORTH</p> <p>APPROVED: J.A. BALFORTH</p> <p>DATE: JULY 17, 1980</p> <p>STATION CO-ORDINATES: 10° 11' 10" N</p> <p>UTM: 18Q UTM</p> <p>SCALE: 1:50,000</p>	



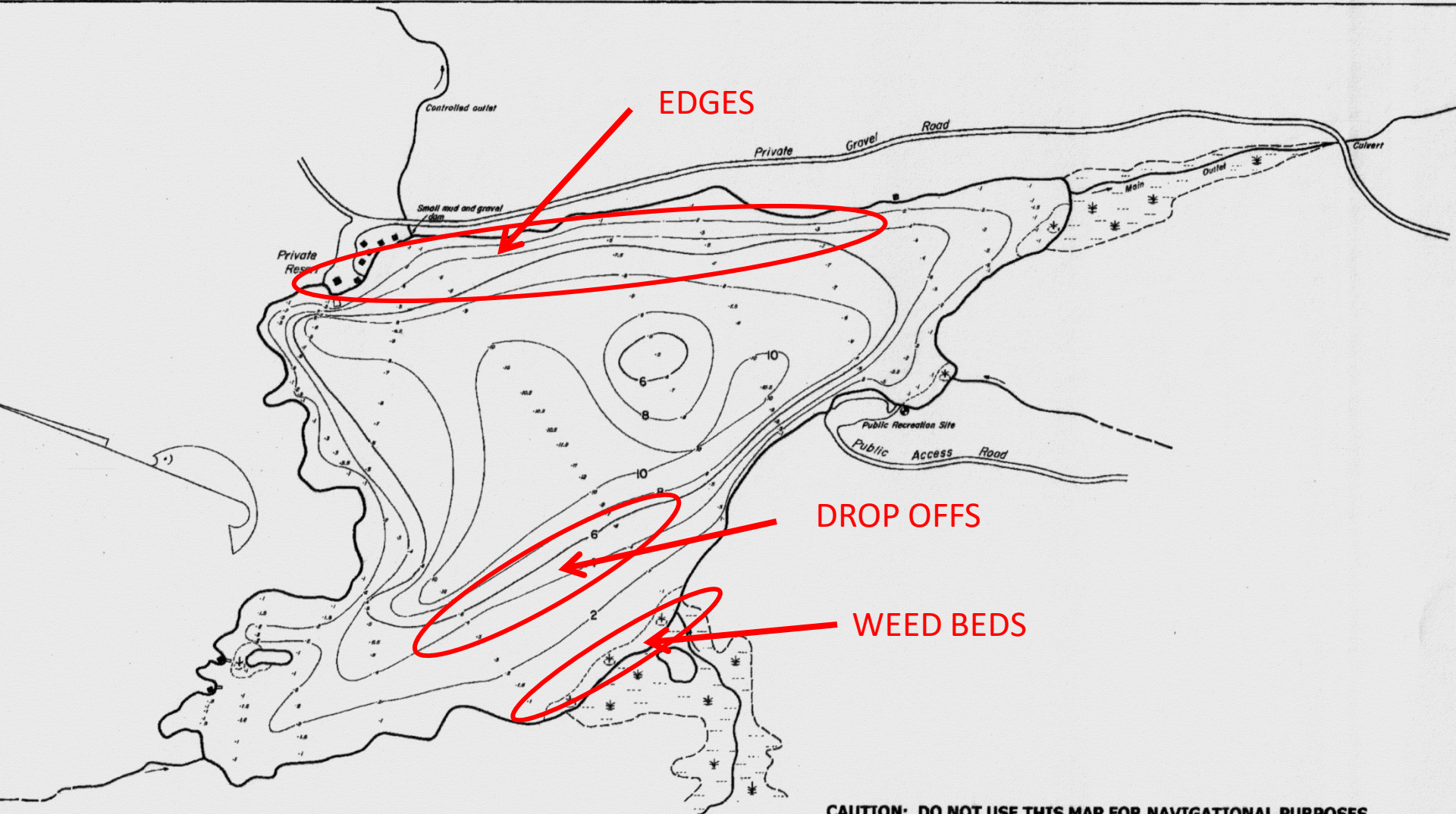
CAUTION: DO NOT USE THIS MAP FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES
 This map may not reflect current conditions. Uncharted hazards may exist.

FINDING FISH – SUMMER



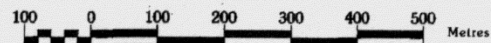
NOTE: ⑥ DENOTES BENCH MARK

INSET MAP		NOTE: W DENOTES BENCH MARK		RESOURCE ANALYSIS BRANCH MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS SECTION	
		SURVEYED BY: I. WEBBER DATE: JUNE 5-6, 1980. SHORE OUTLINE FROM: AIR PHOTO BC 7057 No 78		<h1>HATHEUME LAKE</h1>	
		<u>STATISTICS AT TIME OF SURVEY</u> 1. ELEVATION 1395 m 2. SURFACE AREA 1,085,000 sq. m. 3. VOLUME 5,800,000 cu. m. 4. EST. ANNUAL FLUCTUATION 5. MEAN DEPTH 5.4 m. 6. MAX. DEPTH 12 m. 7. PERIMETER 5860 m + Int. 220 m. 8. AREA, 6 M. CONTOUR 513,200 sq. m. 9. HEIGHT OF BENCH MARK ABOVE WATER LEVEL 2 m.			
		REGION: 9		SITE CO-ORDINATE: 10-T11-25417	
		DATE: JULY 17 1980		DRAWN: J.A. BALEWILL	
		CALCULATIONS: C.W.H.		CHECK: J.A. BALEWILL	
		PLOTTING:		APPROVED: J.A.B.	
		FILED: 000 W.S. DUTCHIFFE		N.T.S. No. 92 H/16	



FALL - LARVA AND HATCHES

CAUTION: DO NOT USE THIS MAP FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSES
This map may not reflect current conditions. Uncharted hazards may exist.



<p align="center">INSET MAP</p>		<p align="center">NOTE: DENOTES BENCH MARK</p>	
		<p>SURVEYED BY: I. WEBBER DATE: JUNE 3-6, 1980. SHORE OUTLINE FROM: AIR PHOTO BC 7097 No 78</p>	
<p align="center">STATISTICS AT TIME OF SURVEY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ELEVATION 1395 m SURFACE AREA 1,085,000 sq. m. VOLUME 8,850,000 cu. m. EST. ANNUAL FLUCTUATION MEAN DEPTH 9.4 m. MAX. DEPTH 12 m. PERIMETER 5860 m. ± 1st. 220 m. AREA, 5 M. CONTOUR 513,200 sq. m. HEIGHT OF BENCH MARK ABOVE WATER LEVEL 2 m. 		<p align="center">RESOURCE ANALYSIS BRANCH MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS SECTION</p>	
		<p align="center">HATHEUME LAKE</p>	
<p>REGION: 8</p>		<p>UTM CO-ORDINATE: 10 F11P-55407</p>	
<p>DATE: JULY 17 1980</p>		<p>DRAWN: J.A. BALKWILL</p>	
<p>CALCULATIONS: T.R.W.</p>		<p>CHECK: J.A. BALKWILL</p>	
<p>PLOTTING:</p>		<p>APPROVED: </p>	
<p>PAIR DPG: W.G. DUTCHIFFE</p>		<p>SCALE: 1:4000 N.T.S. No. 92 H/16</p>	

Equipment

- Fly rod -4,5,or 6wt. Stiff butt flexible tip (Switch rod – RIO short shooting head)
- Reel - Wide arbor
- Line – Appropriate to method. Rio or SA Indicator Line, Midge Tip, Hover, Type 4,5 or 6 full sink, WF Floating, Neutral Density, at least 50yds of backing.
- Throat Pump.
- Specialty leaders for indicator and naked methods.
- Sounder.
- Rod Holder.
- Break Away Indicator.
- Bobber Stopper.
- Fluorocarbon Tippet 3, 4 and 5x. 3 and 4x, 12 foot mono leaders.
- Lead weight or forceps

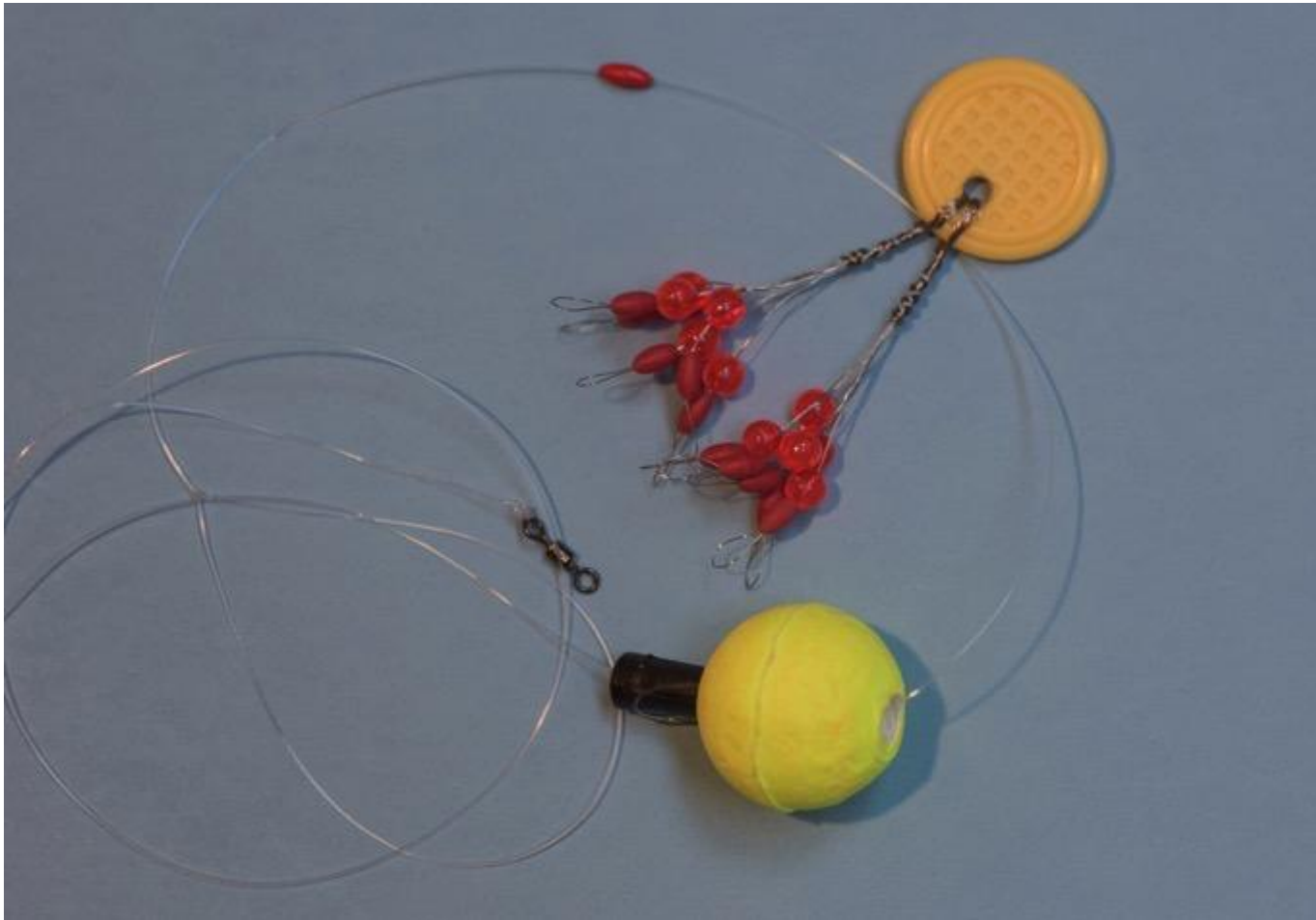
Use an indicator you can see



Sounder



Indicators and Bobber Stoppers



Poor Man's Depth Sounder



Throat Pump



Specialty Leaders

Long Line/Naked Leader

Standard 9 foot tapered leader cut back 2 ½ feet

Add 10-15 feet of 8 pound Maxima Ultragreen

Add swivel

Add 4x fluorocarbon as needed to achieve 125% of water depth

Indicator Leader

10 -15 feet of non stretch braid or 17 pound fluorocarbon with perfection loop, Thill Indicator or breakaway indicator,

#10 swivel, and 4x fluorocarbon tippet as needed

Fly Patterns



Fly Pattern Sizes and Colors

Chironomid pupa and adults tend to be larger as you move farther north and smaller as the season progresses towards fall.

Chironomid pupa tend to fall into the following range of sizes

WA, ID, MT and OR 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20

Canada 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18

Chironomid adults are typically one size smaller than the pupa

Chironomid colors range from black (most common) to silver, dull silver, red, olive, tan, copper or brown and chartreuse. Use your throat pump to sample the naturals the fish are eating so as to select the appropriate size and color.



Black, Red-Butt
Snow-Cone
Chironomid
Gene Gudger



Red-Butt Black
Chironomid
Gene Gudger



Brown Snow-Cone
Chironomid
Gene Gudger





Red-Butt
Antistatic
Chironomid
Gene Gudger



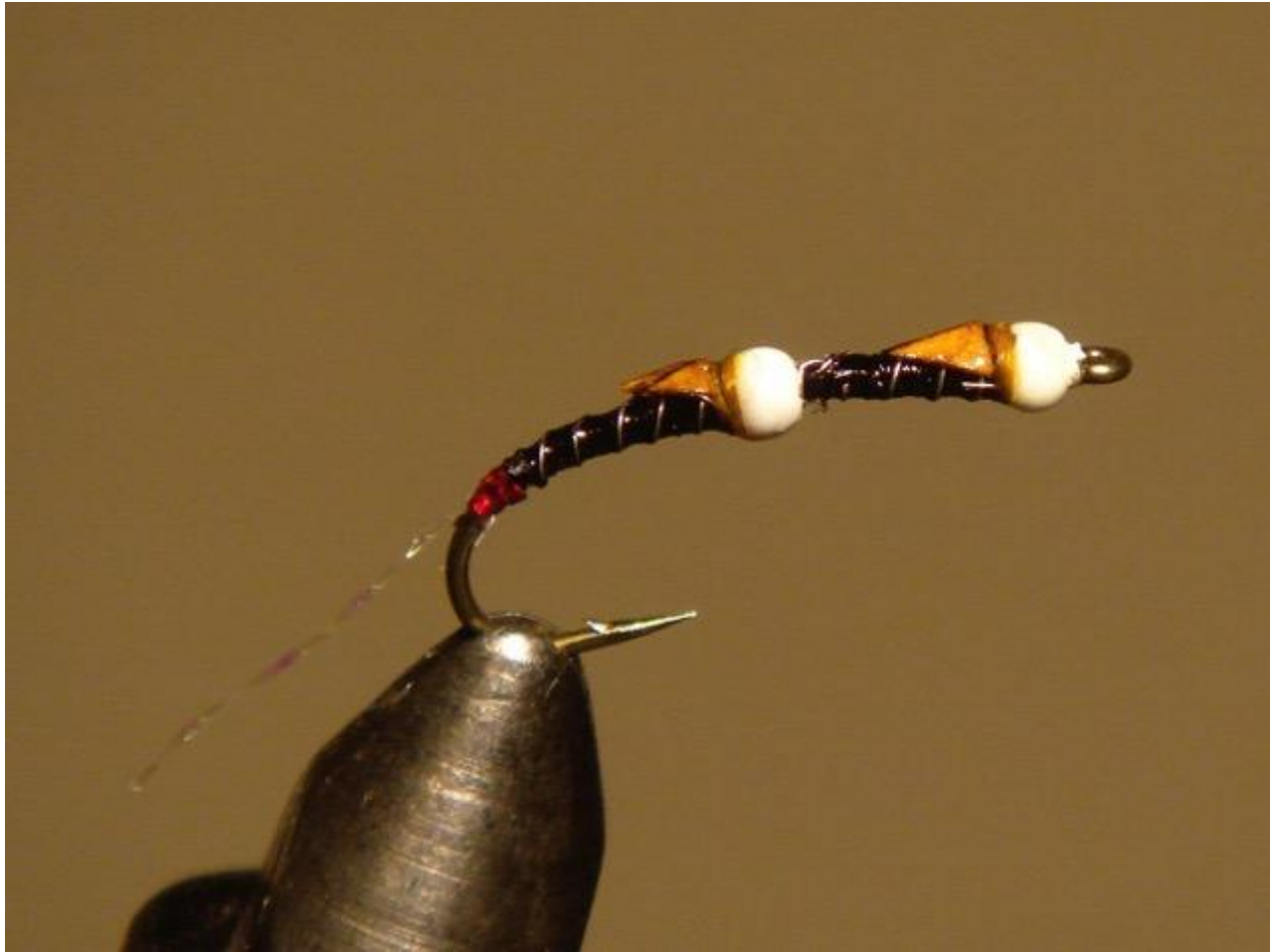


Red-Butt Black
Chironomid
Gene Gudger



Red-Butt
Chartreuse
Snow-Cone
Chironomid
Gene Gudger





Brown and Copper



Duller Chromie



Antistatic Chromie



Chromie



Red and Black



Black Sno-cone



Black Buzzer



Olive and Copper



Bloodworm



Bloodworm Cluster



Lady Mc Connell



Rubber Legs Midge





Stuck in the Shuck



Hiviz Adult



Midge Emerger



Watercraft

1. Fish from shore

- Economical, good visibility, limited mobility and access, quiet

2. Step Ladder

- Better visibility, limited mobility and access, easy transport, quiet

3. Float Tube/U Boat

- Cold, slow, fair visibility, fair mobility, sounder friendly, easy transport, quiet, \$

4. Pontoon Boat

- More comfortable, good visibility, some storage for rods and gear, good mobility, electric motor possible, sounder friendly, car topable, quiet, \$\$

5. Pram

- Warm and comfortable, room for rods and gear, excellent mobility, excellent visibility (standing), electric or outboard motor possible, sounder friendly, car top or trailer. **double anchor**, quiet, fish two rods, \$\$

6. Car Topper/Trailer Boat

- Same as pram, noisy if aluminum (carpet the bilge), \$\$\$

7. Drift boat/Skiff

- Same as pram, may not have double anchor, wind target, \$\$\$\$

Rod Holder



Trailer



Skiff/Car Topper



Skiff/Car Topper



Bow Anchor

